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ABSTRACT

In response to the 1990 Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act, Ohio formed an ad hoc committee that identified the following components of tech prep: systemic change, partnership, expanded student opportunities, early individual career education, competencies, and advanced skills. Ohio's strategic plan for tech prep has two purposes: establish a framework ensuring tech prep's long-term viability and provide the guidance required for tech prep's stakeholders to share an overall common view/direction. In Ohio, tech prep is considered a partnership among business, industry, labor, high school, and higher education whose goals are as follows: provide a seamless educational path beginning before grade 8 and culminating with employment after an associate degree/two-year certificate program; expand tech prep enrollments to serve Ohio's labor market needs better; ensure that teaching/learning reflects all students' needs; and maximize the opportunities afforded by all relevant initiatives, resources, and participating partners. Ohio's integrated tech prep curriculum includes the following: career development activities and career interest/academic assessment before and in grade 8; academic foundations with particular emphasis on math, science, and communications in grades 9-10; higher-level math/science/communications, occupational, and employability competencies in grades 11-12; advanced occupational/academic/employability competencies at the associate degree/two-year certificate level; and employment as an advanced skill technician. (MN)

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ED 407 604

TECH PREP

PATHWAYS FOR SUCCESS

January 1997

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TECH PREP PARTNERSHIP

"I'm a firm believer that quality technical training programs are essential to developing a skilled workforce. Tech Prep develops the skills that students need for the technologically advanced job market. Ohio must compete on a global level and we need people with high-level technical skills for our economy to thrive, both today and into the next century. Tech Prep is key to maintaining Ohio's competitive edge."

Randy Weston
State Representative
90th House District

Tech Prep, a partnership among business, industry, labor, high school and higher education, is a primary strategy for systemic educational change in Ohio that prepares students for technology occupations of the future. Through the integration of academic, occupational, and employability competencies verified by industry, students begin a seamless educational path in high school which leads to an associate degree with advanced skills. Tech Prep is a new and innovative educational reform effort which aims at meeting the challenges of tomorrow, today.

"I've never been involved in such an innovative, well-rounded program. My parents share my enthusiasm. They're interested in seeing the program succeed because they believe it's a unique and useful educational experience, and gives students an advantage in the workplace and a head start on college."

High School Student, Health Technology
Mahoning Area Consortium

BACKGROUND

"Tech Prep offers students an outstanding opportunity to couple academics and technical skills. The program offers flexibility for the 21st century learner to compete in the work force or enter post high school educational programs. I'm pleased to endorse Tech Prep!"

Principal
Liberty High School

As a national education reform initiative, Tech Prep originated as part of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act of 1990. After the legislation became effective, Ohio formed an *ad hoc* committee to establish the state's Tech Prep mission. The committee included community and technical college presidents, school superintendents, representatives from the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). This committee laid the foundation for the development of all Tech Prep programs in Ohio through the identification of the following six critical components.

I. SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Tech Prep programs demonstrate systemic change with innovative new options for students. These options focus on changes at both the secondary and post-secondary levels.

II. PARTNERSHIPS

Tech Prep programs are a partnership between high school, higher education, and business, industry, and labor.

III. EXPANDED STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Tech Prep provides all students with the opportunity to pursue a seamless career path beginning in high school and leading to an associate degree creating a foundation for lifelong learning.

IV. EARLY INDIVIDUAL CAREER EDUCATION

Early career education and career exploration are essential so that students are informed and responsible for choosing and progressing in technical career fields.

V. COMPETENCIES

In response to changing labor market needs, high school and higher education require industry identified academic, occupational, and employability competencies enabling students to enter the workforce prepared for the careers of the future.

"Tech Prep is creating a highly skilled workforce to meet the needs of business and industry in Ohio."

Executive Director
Urbana-Champaign County Chamber of Commerce

VI. ADVANCED SKILLS

Tech Prep curricula prepare students with expanded and enhanced competencies beyond current secondary and associate degree programs.

These six critical components remain at the heart of Ohio's Tech Prep initiative. Today, Tech Prep is an integral part of education in Ohio involving over 600 business, industry, and labor partners, 43 public colleges, universities, and regional campuses, 91 Vocational Education Planning Districts, and over 400 secondary school districts.

To facilitate the implementation of Tech Prep initiatives throughout Ohio, the state provides support for 28 regional Tech Prep consortia. These consortia are directly responsible for the management of Tech Prep activities within their region. Governance of these consortia is provided by local steering committees comprised of representatives from business, industry, labor, and participating educational institutions.

Tech Prep in Ohio is the joint responsibility of the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Board of Regents. This dual leadership provides direct cooperation of the agencies responsible for both high school and higher education within the state. Additional leadership is provided by the State Tech Prep Advisory Council, a body of business, industry, labor, and education representatives appointed jointly by the Ohio Board of Regents and the Ohio Department of Education. Its purpose is to provide guidance about issues related to the implementation of the Tech Prep initiative in the State of Ohio.

THE STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

"Tech Prep is a non-stop information superhighway to our future. Real problems, real solutions, and real teachers. It's for the mind."

Manufacturing and Pro-Engineering Academy
Six District Educational Compact

In the spring of 1996, the DOE and OBR formed an Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee to brainstorm, solicit ideas, and begin the task of developing a three-year Strategic Plan for Tech Prep in Ohio. The development of this Strategic Plan involved a process of extensive review of drafts by all interested stakeholders. Comments from many constituents were considered in this final document.

A summary of the resulting Strategic Plan for Tech Prep in Ohio is presented in the following pages. The purpose of the plan is twofold:

1. Establish a framework that will ensure long-term viability of Tech Prep. This framework provides a set of goals, and establishes a path of progress that can be measured.

2. Provide guidance to all stakeholders of Tech Prep so that they will share an overall common view and direction.

The staff of the Ohio Board of Regents and Ohio Department of Education commit to refining the Strategic Plan each year to keep pace with the inevitable changes that will occur. To make this Strategic Plan a reality, each Tech Prep Consortium will develop local plans to attain the goals on pages 5 and 6.

OHIO'S TECH PREP VISION

Tech Prep, a partnership among business, industry, labor, high school and higher education, is a primary strategy for systemic educational change in Ohio that prepares students for technology-based careers demanded by the increasingly competitive global economic community.

"Technology has replaced many workers, but it's also provided more employment opportunities for individuals with higher level technical skills. Local business and industry have assisted in developing Tech Prep programs to meet the need for highly skilled technical workers."

Labor Market Analyst
Ohio Bureau of Employment Services

"Tech Prep prepares students in a number of ways. It gives them an opportunity to see exactly what happens in the workplace. They interact with business and industry leaders. Additionally, they learn to work together with individuals from other schools, so they begin to form the kinds of social skills that are necessary in the workplace."

Manager of Community Relations
Delphi Packard Electric Systems, Worldwide

TECH PREP MISSION AND GOALS

"Tech Prep will help ensure our ability to remain competitive in the global marketplace."

President
Baader Brown
Manufacturing

Tech Prep will prepare students for technology-based careers demanded by the increasingly competitive world economy. To achieve this end, the Strategic Plan addresses four major goals.

1. Provide a seamless education path, including early career exploration, starting in secondary school and leading to an associate degree with expanded and enhanced competencies beyond current secondary school and associate degree programs.

   - Seamless curriculum pathways ensure students are prepared for higher education.
   - Attainment of competencies leads to employment in technology-based careers.
   - Curriculum responds to changing labor market needs.
   - Curriculum will reflect early career education and lifelong learning needs.

2. Expand the enrollment of Tech Prep students to better serve Ohio's labor market needs.

   - 15% of all 11th and 12th grade students in public education will be enrolled in Tech Prep by the year 2000.
   - 66% of students completing the high school portion of Tech Prep will directly enroll in state-assisted colleges and universities by the year 2002.
   - 25% of students enrolled in Tech Prep will be from groups traditionally under represented in technology-based occupations.

"Since my son started with the Tech Prep program, he has set goals, become excited about what he's doing . . . and his grades show it."

Parent
of a Tech Prep student

3. Ensure that teaching and learning reflects the needs of all students.

   - Teaching and learning reflects an applied, inquiry-based, problem-solving approach.
   - Curriculum reflects a competency-based profile.

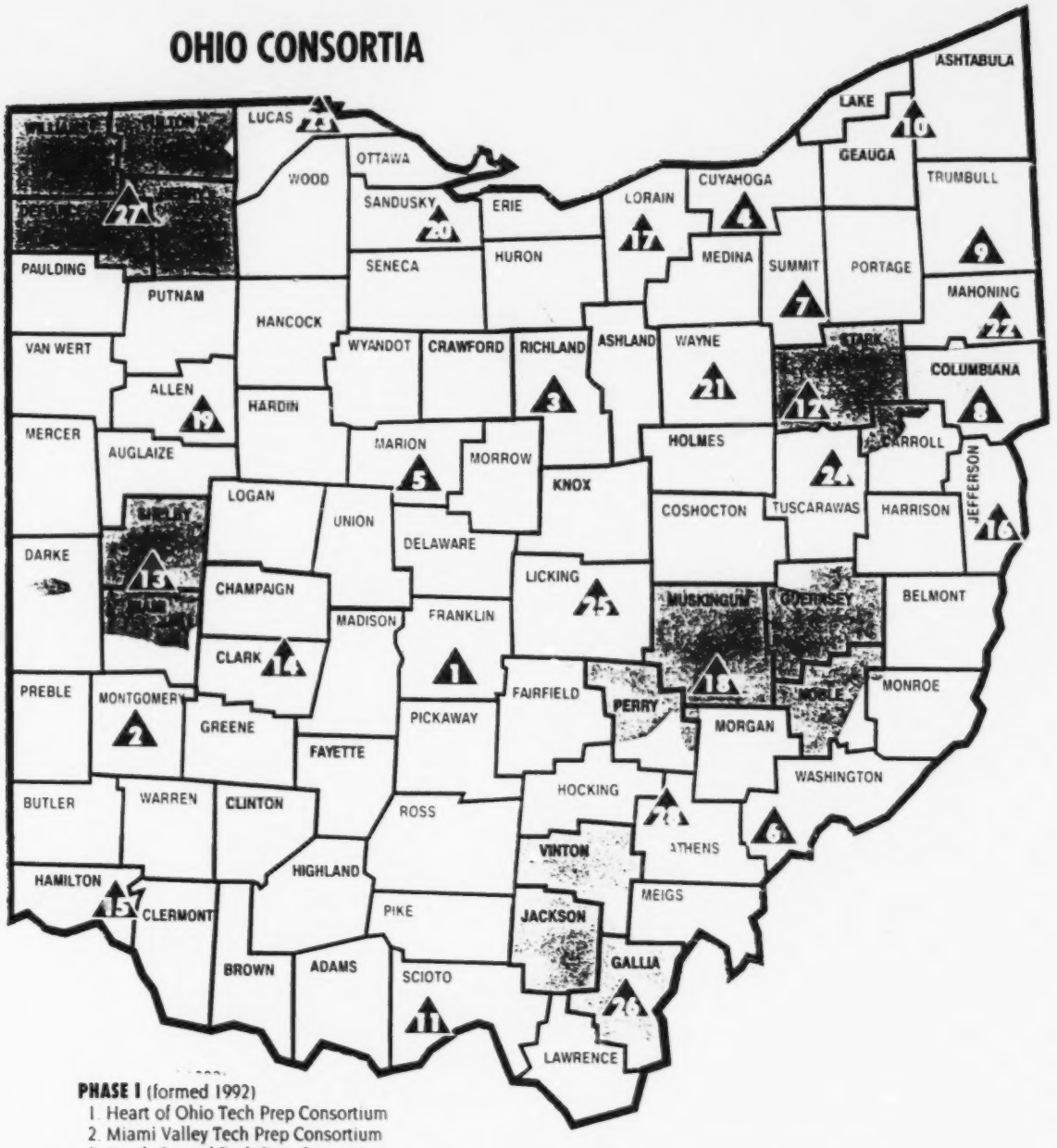
4. Maximize the opportunities afforded by all relevant initiatives, resources, and participating partners.

   - Create new and enhance existing partnerships among business, industry, labor, community organizations, and education.
   - Capitalize on available regional, state, and federal resources/ initiatives to enhance Tech Prep's success.
   - Continue successful consortia functions and governance structures.

"As an executive with knowledge of the Central Ohio economy, I can tell you that there are more jobs in the vocational and technical areas than there are qualified applicants."

President and CEO
Industry and Technology Council of Central Ohio

OHIO CONSORTIA



PHASE I (formed 1992)
1. Heart of Ohio Tech Prep Consortium
2. Miami Valley Tech Prep Consortium
3. North Central Tech Prep Consortium
4. North Coast Tech Prep Consortium
5. Tech Prep Partners of Marion VEPD 111
6. Washington-Morgan-Meigs Counties Tech Prep Consortium

PHASE II (formed 1993)
7. Akron Area Tech Prep Consortium
8. Columbiana County Tech Prep Consortium
9. Kent Trumbull Tech Prep Consortium
10. Lakeland Tech Prep Consortium
11. Ohio South Tech Prep Consortium
12. Stark County Tech Prep Consortium
13. Upper Miami Valley Tech Prep Consortium

PHASE III (formed 1994)
14. Clark State Tech Prep Consortium
15. Greater Cincinnati Tech Prep Consortium
16. Eastern Ohio Valley Tech Prep Consortium
17. Lorain County Tech Prep Consortium
18. Mid-East Ohio Tech Prep Consortium
19. West Central Ohio Tech Prep Consortium
20. Workforce Development Council

PHASE IV (formed 1995)
21. Applied Technology Instruction: Technical Education & Careers in Horticulture Tech Prep Consortium (with programs at locations throughout Ohio)
22. Mahoning Area Consortium
23. Northwest Ohio Tech Prep Consortium
24. Tuscarawas Valley Tech Prep Consortium

PHASE V (formed 1996)
25. East Central Ohio Tech Prep Consortium
26. Gallia, Jackson, Vinton Counties Tech Prep Consortium
27. Maumee Valley Tech Prep Consortium
28. Southeast Tech Prep Consortium

Individual e-mail addresses are available through Tech Prep's website at www.bor.ohio.gov/techprep

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SERIOUS ABOUT SUCCESS

"Tech Prep is a win-win situation."

Human Resources
Navistar

Tech Prep is an educational path designed to prepare students for a career in a technical field that requires specific course work in high school and a two-year college technical degree or two-year certificate. Following high school, Tech Prep students also have the option of entering the work force or attending a four-year college or university.

INTEGRATED CURRICULUM:

PRE-8TH GRADE & 8TH GRADE

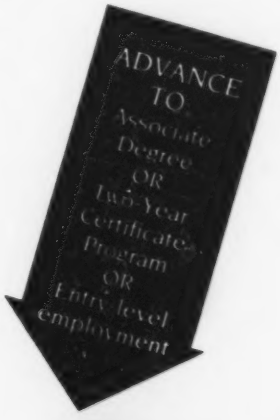
- Career development activities
- Career interest and academic assessment
- Initiation of an Individual Career Plan (ICP) document

HIGH SCHOOL 9TH & 10TH GRADE

- Academic foundations with particular emphasis on math, science, and communications
- Annual review of the ICP document

HIGH SCHOOL 11TH & 12TH GRADE

- Higher-level math, science & communications competencies
- Occupational competencies through work or laboratory-based learning
- Employability competencies
- Annual review of the ICP



COLLEGE: Associate Degree or Two-Year Certificate Program

- Advanced technical curriculum including occupational, academic & employability competencies

EMPLOYMENT

- Advanced skills technician

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